

Vital Statistics Report Lancaster County, Nebraska 2003

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INTRODUCTION

This is the twenty-sixth annual Lancaster County Vital Statistics Report published by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD). This report contains vital statistics data for the 2003 calendar year. In addition to birth and death statistics, this report contains 2003 marriage and divorce data for Lancaster County. Information contained in this report is based on the vital records of the State of Nebraska, which were sent to LLCHD by the Data Management Section, Nebraska Health and Human Services System.

Historical data, Year 2010 Objectives, and data for Nebraska have been used where relevant to show trends and comparisons. Birth and mortality rates are calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Census. The 2003 population estimate of Lancaster County was set at 261,057 by 2003 U.S. Census Data.

Data provided by the Nebraska Birth Defects Registry were used to examine trends of congenital anomalies and their distribution by age and race of the mother. Since 1999 the death certificate has used a revised cause of death classification. This new classification is the tenth revision of International Classification of Disease (ICD-10), which replaced ICD-9. The ICD-9 was in use during 1979-1998.

Age adjusted rates are used to examine the difference in death rates from year to year. Adjusted rates are also utilized to compare county deaths with those of the State.

This report is divided into three sections: 1) Birth Statistics, 2) Death Statistics, and 3) Marriage and Divorce Statistics. Some of the many possible statistics are discussed in narrative, in tables and figures. However, for those interested in the overall data summary tables for birth (Table 13, Table 13A) and deaths (Table 35) are provided.

Birth Statistics

This section presents year 2003 birth data for Lancaster County, Nebraska, according to a wide variety of characteristics. Presented data are for demographic characteristics (age, live birth order, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, and educational attainment); maternal characteristics (medical risk factors, weight gain, tobacco and alcohol use); medical care utilization by pregnant women (prenatal care, obstetric procedures, complication of labor or delivery, attendant at birth, and method of delivery); and infant characteristics (period of gestation, birth weight, APGAR score, abnormal conditions, and multiple births). Birth and fertility rates are also presented by age, live birth order, race, Hispanic origin and marital status. Trends in birth, fertility, maternal and infant characteristics are described and interpreted. In addition, birth defects found among the infants are also discussed.

This section covers descriptive tabulation of data reported on birth certificates of the 4043 births that occurred in Lancaster County in 2003.

Death Statistics

This section presents year 2003 death certificate data of Lancaster County, Nebraska. Based on the characteristics of the deceased. It discusses the leading causes of death, infant mortality, and fetal deaths. Also presented in this section are data reported on unintentional injury death, disposition and place of death, trends in death (gender specific), infant mortality rate, and fetal death rate.

This section provides descriptive tabulations of age-adjusted rates (for comparison) of data reported on death certificates of the 1,718 deaths that occurred in Lancaster County in 2003.

Marriage and Divorce Statistics

The marriage and divorce section provides a descriptive summary of the 1,947 marriages and 917 divorces that took place in Lancaster County in 2003. Marriages and divorces are described according to age, race and education. A profile of children of the divorcees is also presented.

Highlights

- i The infant mortality rate for non-White children was 9.3 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to 5.3 White deaths per 1,000 live births.
- i Both the number and rate of low-birth weight babies increased when compared to last year.
- i Cancer continues to be the number one cause of death. (In 1999, for the first time, cancer was the leading cause of death.)
- i An increasing number of women are having children at older ages.
- i There has been a steady and dramatic increase in non-marital births since 1978. The rates have increased from 98 per 1,000 to 262 per 1,000 women in 2003. Non-marital births for mothers under the age of 20 were the highest among Black and American-Indian mothers at 96.7% and 85.7%. Non-marital births for mothers under the age of 20 in Hispanics and Whites were 86.4% and 80.6% respectively. Asians had the rate of non-marital births for mothers under the age of 20 at 83.3%.
- i Infants born with low birth weight had a higher chance of having birth defects (8.6%) than infants born with normal birth weight (3.2%).

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